

# German Armies in France in Full Retreat; Hotly Pursued; Abandon Guns and Stores Wilson Sends Peace Inquiry to Berlin

## DISCUSSION OF PEACE WAITS ON REPLY OF RULER OF GERMANY

Inquiry from President Before Kaiser  
Several Days Now as to His Re-  
ported Willingness to Discuss Terms.

## ALLIES DEFINE ATTITUDE FOR BRYAN

Oscar Straus Active in Mediation Movement Ori-  
ginating at James Speyer's Dinner  
for Count von Bernstorff.

Washington, Sept. 12.—Emperor William has had  
under consideration for several days an informal inquiry  
from the United States government as to whether Germany  
desires to discuss terms of peace with her foes.

Up to a late hour no reply had come, but on its tenor  
depends to some extent whether or not the informal peace  
movement inaugurated just a week ago to-night can be pur-  
sued further with Great Britain, France and Russia.

The inquiry was not a formal one, such as President  
Wilson's original tender of good offices, but was an effort  
of an official character to determine whether Germany's re-  
ported willingness to talk peace was based on fact.

The chronology of the peace movement was revealed  
to-night after a canvass of officials, diplomatists and others  
directly concerned in the incident.

### SEVEN DAYS OF PEACE TALK.

The story of the seven days of peace talk, as told  
by some of the principals, is substantially as follows:

Saturday, Sept. 5.—Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador,  
dined with James Speyer, the banker, at the latter's residence in New  
York. Oscar Straus, American member of the Hague Tribunal and former  
Cabinet officer, was present. During the evening, as the conversation  
turned to the subject of peace in Europe, the German Ambassador said  
that while he had had no advice from his government since leaving Ber-  
lin, he recalled a conversation with the Imperial Chancellor there, in which  
the latter said he believed the Emperor would be willing to discuss mea-  
sures of peace through mediation. Previous to the ambassador's conversa-  
tion with the Chancellor Emperor William had already acknowledged  
President Wilson's tender of good offices, but had been non-committal as  
to its acceptance. Mr. Straus immediately asked the German Ambassador  
for permission to repeat the conversation to Secretary Bryan at Wash-  
ington. Count von Bernstorff gave his consent.

Sunday, Sept. 6.—Mr. Straus arrived in Washington and went to the  
home of Secretary Bryan, where they conferred secretly. The Secretary  
communicated later with President Wilson. It was decided to get the  
German Ambassador's consent to forward a report of the incident to  
Ambassador Gerard for discussion with the German Foreign Office. In  
the mean time, Mr. Straus was advised to talk the situation over with the  
British and French ambassadors here. He saw each that day.

### GERARD BIDDEN SEE KAYSER.

Monday, Sept. 7.—The German Ambassador reached Washington and  
conferred privately with Mr. Bryan. As a result of the conference the  
Secretary cabled Ambassador Gerard to convey to Emperor William an  
inquiry from the American government as to whether he desired to con-  
firm the statement reported to have been made by him to the Imperial  
Chancellor, and repeated by the Chancellor to Count von Bernstorff in  
private conversation. Copies of the message to Ambassador Gerard were sent  
by Secretary Bryan to Ambassador Page at London and Ambassador Her-  
rick at Paris. Meanwhile Mr. Straus had talked with the British and  
French ambassadors, both of whom said they could make no definite state-  
ment without instructions, as they had heard nothing from their govern-  
ment on the subject of peace. They were acquainted by Mr. Straus  
with what had occurred at the dinner in New York. Both the French and  
British ambassadors reported the incident unofficially to their respective  
foreign offices.

### BRYAN INFORMS SPRING-RICE.

Tuesday, Sept. 8.—Secretary Bryan told the British Ambassador,  
Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, what had occurred in detail, and learned that the  
ambassador similarly had made inquiry of his government to learn its  
attitude toward peace.

Wednesday, Sept. 9.—Sir Edward Grey discussed with Ambassa-  
dor Page the inquiry which the latter had received from Secretary Bryan.  
On the same day Sir Edward Grey cabled the British Ambassador here  
that as Great Britain, France and Russia had in the preceding week agreed  
not to make peace without common consent, the position of the Triple  
Entente was unanimous on the question of terms. Sir Edward said what  
the powers wanted was a temporary truce, but a permanent peace in  
Europe, so that the world could be insured against the sudden outbreak  
of war after Germany had recouped herself. The British Foreign Secretary  
added, moreover, that England had from the first tried to avoid war and  
sought peace, but before the subject could be considered seriously definite  
terms would have to be submitted. Great Britain, Sir Edward pointed out,  
would insist that Belgium be fully compensated by Germany for her losses.  
This information was communicated to Secretary Bryan by the British  
Ambassador.

### FRENCH ATTITUDE LIKE BRITISH.

Thursday, Sept. 10.—The French Ambassador called on Secretary Bryan  
and, it is understood, discussed the point of view of France. Ambassador  
Herick coincidentally reported the wish of France that there might be  
peace, but pointed out that until the French had driven the invaders from  
their territory and Belgium had been compensated, terms of peace could

## FRENCH AEROPLANE WHIPS GERMAN IN AIR

Paris, Sept. 12.—News has just  
been received here of an exciting  
air battle in the vicinity of Troy.  
A German aeroplane threw sev-  
eral bombs into the city, and a  
French machine arose and gave  
chase. After a thrilling pursuit  
fifty miles, the French aeroplane  
overtaken the German air craft near  
Piney, where an engagement ensued.  
The French machine soon secured  
the advantage in the action, and im-  
mediately afterward the German  
aeroplane was precipitated to earth,  
and the two officers on board  
killed.

Troy is the capital of the de-  
partment of the Aube and formerly  
of Champagne. It is on the left  
bank of the Seine, ninety miles east-  
southeast of Paris. The city has  
in part a medieval aspect, owing  
to its narrow, crooked streets and  
ancient wooden houses. It has  
many interesting churches, among  
them the Cathedral of St. Pierre,  
an imposing edifice begun in the  
thirteenth century, but not finished  
until three hundred years later. It  
has a fine museum, and art  
gallery and a library containing  
125,000 volumes. The popu-  
lation in 1901 was 53,000.

## ITALY AGAIN URGED TO FIGHT ALLIES

Rome, Sept. 12.—Advances have again  
been made by Germany and Austria,  
with the object of inducing Italy to  
abandon her neutrality, it being urged  
that Italy's action might be decisive  
for either side.  
Austrian naval experts point out that  
the Allies, from a naval viewpoint,  
have achieved nothing against Austria  
since war was declared, and argue that  
it is hardly possible that they will  
dare to attack the combined naval  
forces of Austria and Italy.

## PRISON IN CRACOW FOR SIENKIEWICZ

London, Sept. 12.—A dispatch to "The  
Evening News" from Petrograd says  
that Henryk Sienkiewicz, the Polish  
writer and author of "Quo Vadis," who  
recently issued an appeal to the Poles  
to support Russia in the war, has been  
taken prisoner by the Austrians and  
sent to Cracow.  
Mr. Sienkiewicz has been living on  
his estate in Galicia. He is about  
seventy years old, and always has been  
hostile to Austria and Germany and  
an apostle of a Russo-Polish rapproche-  
ment.

## FRENCH GUN PUTS ENEMY IN TERROR

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
London, Sept. 13.—An "Observer"  
dispatch from Antwerp says the of-  
fensive action by the Belgian army  
against the German troops has been  
still continued with great dash and  
success, and the action is becoming  
more extended in Belgium. The heavy  
six-inch field guns are doing effective  
work.  
It was fortunate that the govern-  
ment committee just before the out-  
break of the war decided in favor of  
this French type of weapon. Under its  
fire the German troops of the land-  
sturm and the Austrian troops become  
demoralized. The invaders are slowly  
retiring in the direction of Brussels.  
Belgian advance guards on protected  
motor cars, with quick fire, have al-  
ready reached the gates of Louvain,  
scattering bands of Germans.

## DE WET MAY LEAD CORPS FOR BRITISH

London, Sept. 12.—"The African  
World" says that an active movement  
is on foot to offer Field Marshal Earl  
Kitchener, Secretary of State for War,  
a corps of picked British and Dutch  
Africaners scouts for use with Field  
Marshal French's army, under the com-  
mand of General Christian Rudolf De  
Wet, the Boer commander who gave  
the British so much trouble during the  
South African war.

## WANTS HOME RULE TO WAIT END OF WAR

London, Sept. 12.—Lord Lansdowne,  
leader of the Unionist Opposition in  
the House of Lords, will move on Mon-  
day that proceedings upon the home  
rule and Welsh disestablishment bills  
be suspended during the war.

## CROWN PRINCE AND BROTHER DEAD, SAYS OSTEND REPORT

London, Sept. 13, 1:32 a. m.—An  
Ostend dispatch to the Reuter Tele-  
gram Company says:  
"Crown Prince Frederick William  
and Prince Adalbert of Prussia, the  
Emperor's third son, and Prince  
Carl of Wurtemberg are reported to  
have died in a hospital at Brussels."

## CZAR'S ARMY ON HEELS OF AUSTRIANS

Russian Forces, Near San  
River, Closely Pursue  
Retreating Enemy.

## GERMANS TOO LATE TO AID THEIR ALLIES

Austrians Reported to  
Have Lost 160,000  
Men.

## RUSSIANS TAKE 90,000 PRISONERS

Petrograd Dispatch Says Hun-  
garian Battalion Laid Down  
Arms in Rumania.

Petrograd, Sept. 12.—The Russian  
troops are drawing nearer the San  
River, according to the official an-  
nouncement made to-night. The Aus-  
trian army is in retreat and is being  
closely pursued by the Russians.

Rome, Sept. 12.—News from the Aus-  
trian frontier says that the Austrian  
army in Galicia is demoralized and  
that the efforts of the officers to re-  
store confidence are in vain. It is  
added that the Austrian soldiers are  
in a panic and are fleeing for safety.  
Paris, Sept. 12.—A Havas dispatch  
from Petrograd says:  
"Russian successes are reported  
everywhere in the theatre of opera-  
tions. Notwithstanding brilliant  
efforts of the Hungarian cavalry and  
the ability of the Austrians to in-  
ter themselves in a clever manner,  
the Russians have completely crushed  
the bulk of the opposing armies and  
are occupying more territory every  
day."

"The Russian artillery was so effec-  
tive at the bombardment of Nicolaeff,  
south of Lvov (Lemberg), that the  
Austrian guns were silenced the first  
day, whereupon the Austrians began  
their evacuation without awaiting an  
assault. Russian airmen signalled the  
Austrian retreat, and the Russian ar-  
tillery and cavalry gallantly dashed  
round, cutting them off and inflicting  
enormous losses."  
An earlier dispatch from Petrograd  
said that yesterday's news of the defeat  
of the Austrian left wing near Toma-  
sheff, Russian Poland, is confirmed. The  
Austrians were surrounded in a tri-  
angle formed by the Vistula River and  
a tributary, the San, and the wing was  
crushed before the arrival of the Ger-  
mans, who came by forced marches to  
the aid of the Austrians. Poor and  
inadequate bridges delayed the German  
armies and made the defeat of their allies in-  
evitable.

The Russians followed up this victory  
by pursuing the retreating Aus-  
trians twenty miles and taking up posi-  
tions in the fortified localities of Opole  
and Tournobry. The Russians suffered  
heavy casualties in taking Tomasheff.  
The Germans lost heavily when they  
were repulsed in the vicinity of Mys-  
niec and Chorzow in Russian Poland,  
on the frontier of Prussia.

A Havas dispatch from Petrograd  
says it is officially announced that  
Russian troops, in pursuit of retreat-  
ing Austrians, are approaching the  
River San.

London, Sept. 12.—The Russians con-  
tinued to strike the Austrian left in  
Galicia and, according to the reports  
from Petrograd, they have succeeded  
in smashing it. The object in con-  
centrating the attack on this wing of  
the Austrian army is obvious, for the  
Russians have desired more than anything  
else at the present time to put the  
Austrian army entirely out of the  
fight before more German reinforce-  
ments could come to its aid.  
What remains of the Austrian left  
is said to be in the angle between the  
Rivers Vistula and San, where the  
Russians hope to force a surrender  
before the Prussian and Posen campaign  
nothing has been divulged to-day, but  
unofficial reports say that the Russians  
are operating before Posen and Bres-  
lau, and have occupied Tzentschoff  
and Petrokov. It is thought, how-  
ever, that they will satisfy themselves  
with trying to hold their present po-  
sition in both Prussia and Poland,  
until they have attempted more com-  
pletely to dispose of the Austrians. In  
addition, with the arrival of the rainy  
season a large part of Russian Poland  
will be transformed into a marsh, in  
which the Germans will find it im-  
possible to move.

A Central News dispatch from Rome  
says: "A telegram received here by the  
Messaggero from Petrograd states  
that the second battle in Galicia re-  
sulted even more satisfactorily to the  
Russians than the first."  
"The losses of the Austrians are es-  
timated at 150,000, of whom 90,000 are  
prisoners."  
Petrograd correspondent  
telegraphs that German soldiers are at  
present in the Gredok district, sixteen  
miles from the front.

## BELGIANS CUT ARMY OF GERMANS IN TWO

Reoccupy Malines and Aerschot and Close Enemy's Lines  
of Communication—Victories Due to Heavy  
Artillery, Used for First Time.

London, Sept. 13.—The Ostend correspondent of the Exchange Tele-  
graph Company says:

"The Belgian victory at Cortenberg is very important, as the German  
army occupying Belgium has been cut into two sections as a result of it.  
The victory was due in a great part to artillery of heavy calibre, which was  
used for the first time there."

According to official reports received to-night, the Belgian army is  
advancing from the forts around Antwerp. It has apparently divided into  
sections and has reoccupied both Aerschot and Malines, where there have  
been so many engagements in the last few weeks, and has even got as far  
southeast as the battlefields of August, and, coming down on both sides  
of what remains of Louvain, has cut communications between that town  
and Brussels on the west and between Louvain and Tirlemont and Liège  
on the southeast. Another army is still harassing the German force, which  
is advancing southward to France.

While the Belgians have only about 80,000, it is a mobile force and  
can cause trouble to the weakened German army of occupation in Belgium.  
The Belgian Legation announced to-day that an extended sortie was  
made on September 10, and the Germans everywhere were forced to re-  
treat. It was added that the Belgians had destroyed the railway between  
Louvain and Tirlemont, thus cutting off the German communications be-  
tween Brussels and Liège.

## CROWN PRINCE'S ARMY FORCED FROM HEIGHTS

Germans Compelled to Abandon Strong Position on  
Ridge of Argonne—Allies' Cavalry  
Proves Its Worth.

By C. INMAN BARNARD.  
Paris Correspondent New York Tribune.

Paris, Sept. 12.—The German armies' retreat all along the front was  
more decided to-day, as indicated in this afternoon's official communiqué.  
The most significant factor is the fact that the army of the Crown Prince  
was compelled to abandon the wooded ridge of the Argonne, which con-  
stitutes a sort of Thermopylae of that region.

An extremely encouraging feature to the French is the undoubted  
proof that the best Prussian cavalry cannot, squadron to squadron, hold  
its own against either British or French cavalry, which is now dealing  
fearful execution on Kluck's retreating army.

To-day's news from the front is the most encouraging received in  
Paris since the war began. Wounded officers from the lines near Vitry  
testify to the superiority of the French field artillery over the German bat-  
teries, not only in precision of fire, but in rapidity of evolutions. All say  
the Germans fought with the greatest bravery, in spite of their evident  
fatigue from over-marching, over-fighting and, above all, unheard of losses.

## FRENCH SEIZE ALL BIG GUNS OF ARMY CORPS

The German Retreat Very Rapid, Aeroplanes Report  
—British Troops Follow on Heels of  
Retiring Invaders.

London, Sept. 12.—According to official announcement made here this  
afternoon the 3d French Army has captured all the artillery of one German  
army corps.

The artillery of a German army corps consists of two regiments of  
field pieces, eighteen batteries of field guns and six batteries of field  
howitzers, a total of seventy-two pieces, one or two batteries of heavy  
field artillery and a machine gun group.

"Our aeroplanes report that the enemy's retreat is very rapid," the  
announcement said. "Our troops have crossed the River Ourcq and are  
moving this (Saturday) morning in rapid pursuit of the enemy."

"Two hundred prisoners were captured. The cavalry of the Allies  
was between Soissons and Fismes by last night."

(Soissons is about fifty miles northeast of Paris, and Fismes  
is fifteen miles to the east of Soissons.)

"The enemy are retreating north of Vitry-le-Francois."

A dispatch to "The Daily News" from Paris says:

"A motor car brings news from the front that the first and second  
divisions of the British army, with the French cavalry and artillery, cut off  
and defeated a large force of the enemy, sixty miles northeast of Paris,  
taking 6,000 prisoners and fifteen guns. The Germans are reported as  
demoralized."

"The half starved prisoners ravenously devoured beef and biscuits  
supplied by the British troops."

"During the fight fifty British cyclists from the cover of a small wood  
wiped out 150 of the enemy's cavalry."

"The Allies' losses were severe, but they are as nothing in comparison  
to those of the enemy, who is now retreating north of the Marne and  
west of the Ourcq."

## "We Want Peace" Signs Are Seen in Berlin Streets

Copenhagen, Sept. 12.—An influential Scandinavian who has just  
returned from Berlin reports great distress and lack of employment.  
Artists, musicians and sculptors are kept by charity, and placards are  
posted up at night saying "we want peace."  
Deaths and casualties are minimized by the government. A lady who  
was informed that her husband was slightly wounded found him with  
both arms shot off.

## INVADERS EVACUATE VITRY-LE-FRANCOIS, PIVOT OF OFFENSIVE

Kaiser's Hosts, After Week-Long Battle,  
Fall Back from Naturally Strong  
and Well Fortified Position.

## LUNEVILLE RETAKEN BY FRENCH

British Cavalry Now Almost as Far North as  
Rheims—Imperial Forces on Argonne  
Ridge Give Way.

London, Sept. 12.—The German armies, which a  
week ago to-day commenced a series of violent attempts to  
break through the French centre, have found their efforts  
futile, and evacuating Vitry-le-Francois, which was the  
pivot of their offensive and where they had fortified already  
strong natural positions, have retired northward, with the  
Allies in hot pursuit.

A Reuter's dispatch from Paris says that the French  
occupied Soissons, fifty miles northeast of Paris, at 6 o'clock  
this evening.

The speed with which the northward movement, an-  
nounced in earlier official communications to-day, is pro-  
gressing is shown by the following dispatch from the  
French War Office, issued late to-night:

"The German retreat is very rapid. The pursuit is vig-  
orous. The Germans have abandoned many mortars."

"On our left wing the general retreat of the Germans  
continues before the French and British forces, which have  
reached the lower courses of the Aisne."

"Likewise in the centre the German armies are re-  
treating. We have crossed the Marne between Epervy  
and Vitry-le-Francois. On our right wing the enemy has  
in like manner begun to-day a retiring movement, aban-  
doning the region around Nancy. We have reoccupied  
Luneville."

The retirement was made imperative by the continued  
retreat of the German right wing, which is now somewhere  
northwest of Rheims, and the defeat of an army corps which  
was operating just east of Vitry-le-Francois, around Re-  
vigny and Sermaize, and which, in its hurry to join in the  
retirement, left much war material behind for the French  
to pick up.

### FELL BACK ON ARGONNE DISTRICT.

The Germans in the Argonne district likewise have  
begun to fall back, so that the pressure on the forts to the  
southwest of Verdun, which a Berlin report said the Ger-  
man had commenced to bombard, should be relieved.

In Lorraine, too, the French claim to have won further  
successes and to have been enabled to straighten out their  
line along that frontier. They have occupied the territory  
east of the forest of Champenoux, Gerbeviller, Resainviller  
and Saint Die, thus getting in closer touch with their troops,  
which since the early days of the war have held a bit of Ger-  
man territory in front of Colmar.

The progress of the battle of the Marne from its beginning  
was described in detail to-night in the following announcement  
from the official press bureau:

"A summary, necessarily incomplete, may be attempted of  
the operations of the British expeditionary forces and the French  
army during the last four days."

"On September 6 the southward advance of the German  
right reached the extreme point at Coulommiers and Provins, cav-  
alry patrols having penetrated even as far south as Nogent-sur-  
Seine."

"This movement was covered by a large flank force west  
of the line of the River Ourcq, watching the outer Paris defences  
and any allied force that might come from them."

"The southward movement of the enemy left his right wing  
in a dangerous position, as he had evacuated the Creil-Senlis-Com-  
piègne region through which his advance had been pushed."

### ALLIES ATTACK EXPOSED WING.

"The Allies attacked this exposed wing both in front and on  
the flank on September 8. The covering force was assailed by a  
French army based upon the Paris defences and brought to action  
on the line between Nanteuil-le-Haudouin and Meaux."

"The main portion of the enemy's right wing was attacked  
frontally by the British army, which had been transferred from the